

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 SSM-05 IO-14 /108 W
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R 101211Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1651

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, US, TC, IR, SA
SUBJ: PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID'S PRESS INTERVIEW: US AIRCRAFT SALE TO
ARABS A POSITIVE SIGN BUT NO TURNING POINT IN US MIDEAST POLICY

REF: ABU DHABI 1454

1. UAE PRESS ON JUNE 8 PUBLISHED TEXT OF PRESS INTERVIEW WHICH UAE
PRESENT SHAIKH ZAYID HAD GIVEN DAY OR TWO BEFORE TO WALID ABU
DHAHIR, EDITOR OF PARIS-BASED ARABIC MAGAZINE AL-WATAN AL-ARABI.
GREATER PART OF INTERVIEW CONTAINS LITTLE OF INTEREST, ZAYID MOSTLY
ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW HE SEES CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB
WORLD WITH FAVORITE PRESCRIPTION THAT SOLIDARITY AND UNITY OF RANKS
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SURE CURE FOR WHATEVER AILS THE ARABS. ZAYID PASSED UP OPPORTUNITY
TO REPLY TO RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW BY SHAIKH RASHID OF DUBAI CON-
CERNING LATTER'S REQUEST FOR MAJOR REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTIONALITY
OF VARIOUS FEDERAL ACTIONS, ZAYID CONTENTING HIMSELF WITH OBSER-
VATION THAT ADVANTAGES OF UAE EXPERIMENT IN UNIFICATION ARE MANIFEST
OF ALL AND WORTHLY OF EMULATION BY OTHER ARABS.

2. ZAYID SAID RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND FRANCE ARE VERY GOOD; THAT BROTHERLY TIES WITH OMAN ARE "ABOVE ANY DIFFERENCES OVER ONE OR TEN KILOMETERS OF TERRITORY" AND THESE ARE BEING RESOLVED PEACEFULLY, AND THAT BORDER PROBLEM WITH SAUDI ARABIA IS THING OF THE PAST ALTHOUGH A FOREIGN TECHNICAL COMPANY IS STILL AT WORK DEMARCATING BOUNDARIES. ZAYID ALSO DENIED PRESS REPORTS (WHICH HE SAID HE NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF) THAT UAE PLANNING TO BUY SOME SOVIET-MADE MISSILES. ZAYID HEDGED THAT ANY STATE IN NEED OF ARMS WOULD BUY THEM WHERE IT CAN BUT QUICKLY ADDED THAT UAE IS NOT PRESENTLY IN NEED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER HE SAW US AGREEMENT TO SELL MODERN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AS TURNING POINT IN US MIDEAST POLICY, ZAYID SAID HE DID NOT BUT DOES REGARD IT AS "POSITIVE SIGN" BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION. EVERY THINKING ARAB, ZAYID ADDED, SHOULD APPRECIATE PRESIDENT'S GREAT EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THIS SALE IN FACE OF HEAVY ISRAELI AND ZIONIST PRESSURES. "BUT INSPITE OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR THIS STAND OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, WE CONTINUE TO ASK THAT HE TAKE EVEN MORE STEPS TOWARD MAKING THE CAUSES OF JUSTICE AND RIGHT PREVAIL. IN MAKING THIS WE DO NOT WANT HIM TO BE PARTISAN TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER BUT ONLY THAT HE WORK TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE. WE BLAME HIM AS WE BLAME OTHER STATES FOR NOT TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ACHIEVE IT."

4. COMMENT: LATTER POINT, ALONG WITH REST OF INTERVIEW, FURTHER ILLUSTRATIVE OF ZAYID'S CAUTIOUS AND NON-COMMITTAL STANCE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESS ON SENSITIVE ISSUES (REFTEL). LOCAL ARABIC PRESS HAS GIVEN MODERATE STRESS TO REMARKS QUOTED PARA 3 BUT WE SUSPECT THIS REFLECTS MORE PROCLIVITIES OF ITS EDITORIAL STAFFS, MOST OF WHOM ARE NON-UAE NATIONALS, THAN TO DELIBERATE UAE POLICY OF PUBLIC CRITICISM (HOWEVER MILD) OF US MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS. DICKMAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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